

PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Complete if Known

(use as many sheets as necessary)

09/978,551

October 18, 2001

Hiroataka NORO

2151

Karen C. Tang

0670-0269

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.